

U.S. Appl. No. 10/092,830
Reply to Office Action dated July 26, 2006

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PATENT
450100-03808

OCT 19 2006

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1-10 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 8 and 10 are independent. It is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112.

Claims 1, 2 and 5-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0041667 to Gamble (hereinafter, merely "Gamble").

Claims 3, 4, 9 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Gamble in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,351,762 to Ludwig, et al. (hereinafter, merely "Ludwig").

Applicants respectfully submit that Gamble has a filing date of March 9, 2001, which is not before the priority date of the present application, which is entitled to the benefit, under 35 U.S.C. §119, of Japanese application P2001-066755 filed on March 9, 2001 in Japan. A certified translation of the priority document was previously submitted.

Applicants further note that Gamble (2002/0041667) is a continuation-in-part of Gamble (USPN: 7,068,776). However, the portions of Gamble (2002/0041667) relied on by the Office Action are not disclosed in Gamble (USPN: 7,068,776). Therefore, the portions of

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Gamble (2002/0041667) relied on by the Office Action are not entitled to the priority date of the parent application.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that Gamble (2002/0041667) is not prior art and thus all of the outstanding rejections based upon Gamble (2002/0041667) in the outstanding Office Action are overcome.

Furthermore, although Applicants have asserted that Gamble (2002/0041667) is not an effective reference against the present application, such assertion is not a representation concerning distinctions and/or similarities between the present application and Gamble (2002/0041667). Applicants reserve the right to traverse any further rejection that may be presented.

Therefore, Applicants submit that claims 1-10 are patentable.

CONCLUSION

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP
Attorneys for Applicants

By



Thomas F. Presson
Reg. No. 41,442
(212) 588-0800

FLH FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP

New York
745 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10151
Telephone: (212) 588-0800
Fax: (212) 588-0500

www.fhlaw.com
Washington, DC
Tokyo

October 19, 2006

Thomas F. Presson
tpresson@fhlaw.com

VIA DHL COURIER

Mr. Fumihiko Moriya
Senior General Manager
Intellectual Property Division
Sony Corporation
Osaki East Technology Center
Gate City Osaki 1-11-1 Osaki
Shinagawa-ku, Tokyo 141-0032, Japan

Re: U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/092,830
Sony Ref.: S02P0260US00
Sony IPD: M. S.
Our Ref.: 450100-03808

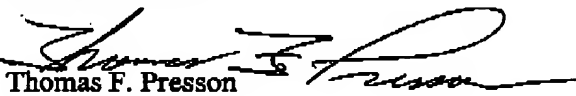
Dear Mr. Moriya:

Thank you for your facsimile letter dated October 19, 2006.

Enclosed is a copy of the Amendment we today filed in response to the Non-Final Office Action dated July 26, 2006 in the above-referenced matter.

We will keep you fully informed of all further developments in this matter.

Sincerely yours,


Thomas F. Presson
TFP:NSA:dxh
Enclosure

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